

RC 1152  
*With Dr. Hall's Compliments*



Royal Burgh of Rothesay.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition  
of the Burgh,

1923.

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J. STEWART HALL, M.B.Ch.B., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

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Rothesay:

Printed by THE BUTEMAN, LTD., 10 and 12 Castle Street.



TO THE SCOTTISH BOARD OF HEALTH, AND TO THE  
PROVOST, MAGISTRATES AND TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE BURGH OF ROTHESAY.

GENTLEMEN,

In obedience to the requirements of the Scottish Board of Health contained in their Circular No. xix., 1923, I beg leave to submit my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1923.

The Report is arranged under the headings indicated in the Circular of instructions referred to above.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. STEWART HALL,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

Rothsay, May, 1924.



# R E P O R T.

—: 6. —

- (a) A general account of influences and conditions injurious to the health of the Burgh, and of the measures that in his opinion should be adopted for its improvement.

The method of Sewage-disposal within the Burgh has remained unchanged during the year. It is satisfactory to be able to report that at the end of the year negotiations were nearing completion to have the new Sewage-disposal scheme carried out as a relief scheme for unemployment. The scheme is a large one and will take a long time to complete.

A year of wet weather has been the means of mitigating any objectionable smell from the refuse coup. The acquisition of a sectional covered cart for the removal of the town refuse is a step in the right direction, and it is to be hoped that any future replacements in this branch will be considered with a view of abolishing the scattering of papers and dust about the streets. It is not out of place to repeat that householders should burn as much as is possible of the combustible refuse.

The Water Supply of the Burgh is good and sufficient. The cleaning of the main pipes was completed early this year.

There exists in Rothesay no smallpox hospital nor any arrangement for the utilization of any building as such in time of emergency. With such a moving population this is a serious and dangerous omission, and it is to be hoped that some scheme will be adopted in the near future. Appertaining to this subject it should be noted that during 1923 there were in Rothesay 21 children who were not vaccinated on account of the conscientious objection of their parents. That in itself constitutes a danger to the health of the public generally.

During the season of 1923 candy apples were not so much in evidence although a considerable business was carried through by some shops. I inspected some of the apples used in the manufacture of this delicacy and was satisfied that these were wholesome.

- (b) — A statement of the general enquiries he has made during the year, and of any special enquiries as to sanitary matters

Enquiries were made concerning offensive smells, contacts of infectious diseases and foci of infection reported from other areas. A special enquiry was made into the possible pollution of Loch Ascog by the effluent from a byre finding its way into it. At that time the Sanitary Inspector and I were satisfied that the remedial means demanded would be sufficient to obviate any danger.

- (c)—A general statement of any matters as to which he has given advice or granted certificates, including any action as to offensive trades.

Certificates were granted with reference to school attendance and house disinfection. The monthly report to the Town Council was continued.

- (d)—A specific account of the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in workshops and workplaces, in terms of Section 132 of that Act. Special attention is directed to the Board's Circular of 14th November, 1921 regarding Sections 61, 97-100, and 110 of the Act.

There were 100 on the Register of Workshops and Workplaces during the year—an increase of 16 over last year. Three notices were served by the Sanitary Inspector under terms of Sect. 2 (2) of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, and these were attended to.

Eleven Outworkers are registered and their work is chiefly sewing and knitting. Their houses are satisfactory from the sanitary point of view.

- (e)—An account of any proceedings under the Housing (Scotland) Acts, 1890-1920, dealing specifically with (1) the sufficiency and habitability of working-class dwellings, (2) any schemes under consideration or contemplated for the improvement of insanitary areas under Parts I. and II of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, and (3) the action taken where instances of overcrowding have been ascertained or suspected.

The Sanitary Inspector is the official appointed by the Town Council to act under Article 1 (3) of the Housing (Inspection of Districts) Regulations, 1910, and his report has already been submitted.

There is a sufficiency of working-class houses within the Burgh, but the demand for small houses by Glasgow and other outside tenants is still very great. In some instances it would appear that preference is given to Glasgow tenants because it is thought that the "wear and tear" of the house will be less. That may be so, but there is also a heavy deterioration in a house which is closed all winter in a damp climate due to the absence of ventilation and firing.

During the year no building of working-class houses has been going on and there is still an apparent shortage of small houses due to the number of outside tenants who use their houses during their holidays only. At the end of the year there were some houses under observation and it is possible that a report concerning their habitability will be submitted to the Town Council early in 1924.

There are no schemes under consideration or contemplated for the improvement of insanitary areas under Parts I. and II. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890. Such a scheme may, however, be required if it is deemed necessary to close some of the smaller houses as being uninhabitable.

No action against overcrowding has been called for during the year.

(f)—A statement showing whether any conditions have arisen, or are expected to arise pointing to the expediency of a town-planning scheme for the proper control of further development.

There does not appear to be any necessity now, nor is the necessity likely to arise in the near future, to adopt a town-planning scheme for the proper control of future development. There is very little building going on at present. The cost of material and labour to private individuals is apparently the deterrent factor in delaying certain contemplated new buildings.

(g)—An account of the presence or absence of pollution of rivers or streams in the district, the sources and nature of such pollution, and any action taken to check it.

No action has been called for under this head. The Local Authority and a private individual cleaned the bed of the only considerable stream within the Burgh. Their action has resulted in a great improvement, although the condition of the stream had not been considered as dangerous to the Public Health.

(h)—An account of any proceedings under the Burgh Police Act, including the substance of his half yearly Reports on slaughter-houses (Section 280).

No proceedings fall to be reported by me under the Burgh Police Act.

The arrangements at the Slaughter-house are as in former years, with the following exception. Under the Public Health (Meat Inspection) Regulations, 1923, I, as Medical Officer of Health, was appointed Meat Inspector, and the Superintendent of the Slaughter-house, Mr M'Lean, was appointed Detention Officer. These appointments date from 1st June, 1923, and appear to be working satisfactorily.

There falls to be recorded a slight increase in the amount of meat condemned—6319 lbs. this year, against 5476 lbs. in 1922. In 1923 there was a smaller turn-over than in the previous year. As in other places, Rothesay has suffered from the restricted movements of animals, although no Foot and Mouth Disease has been reported on the Island of Bute.

The chief cause of condemnation was again Tuberculosis. It was again noticed that some of the cows condemned as suffering from this disease had only recently been giving milk. I make no excuse, therefore, for repeating the warning to parents, namely, to pasteurise the milk they give to children under 2 years of age. Even granted that such a process impairs the food value of milk by destroying the vitamins, to my mind it will be necessary until such time as "Certified Milk," or Grade A (Tuberculosis Tested) Milk is made available to the public at a price within their reach. The deficiency resulting from the pasteurisation of milk may be counteracted by giving the children small quantities of Cod Liver Oil, fresh vegetables, as cabbage puree and fruit juice, such as orange or grape.

(1) - An account of the hospital accommodation available for persons suffering from infectious disease in general, and from smallpox in particular (including the means provided for the conveyance of such persons), and of the houses of reception, with observations on the furnishing, maintenance, administration, and adequacy of such accommodation, &c.

The hospital accommodation available for the isolation and treatment of Infectious Disease is similar to last year. The reception house at the gate of the hospital is likely to be available early in 1924, in view of the fact that the Tuberculosis Pavilion is nearing completion. The administration block is now in use and plans for the reconstruction of the main hospital building are well ahead. It is probable that these alterations will be made during 1924, and accommodation will then be available to isolate a sufficient number of diseases which cannot be done at present.

The building and furnishing of the hospital are old but serviceable, and are kept in good repair.

The work at the hospital throughout the year was again moderate, mainly on account of fewer scarlet cases arising. The cases treated during the year in the hospital are noted in the following tabular statement.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	Pelvic Corpus.	Nursing Mother with Baby with Diphtheria.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Total.
Burgh...	11	6	2	1	2	1	6	1	30
County..	8	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	12
Total....	19	7	4	1	2	1	7	1	42



Throughout the year the Matron and Nurses performed their duties in a most satisfactory manner.

The horse-drawn ambulance brougham is still the means of bringing patients to hospital. It is quite efficient.

As mentioned in a previous paragraph, no approved accommodation is available for the reception of smallpox. This is not as it should be, and should be rectified, even although the difficulties are great.

During the year the administration of the hospital has been satisfactory and the equipment is sufficient.

- (j)—An account of the premises with necessary apparatus and attendance available for the destruction or disinfection of infected articles (including the means for the conveyance and return of such articles), also of other processes of disinfection in use, with observations on the adequacy of such arrangements and processes.

The destruction and disinfection of infected articles is carried out in a similar manner to that reported in 1922. These arrangements and processes are adequate for the Burgh. A van is utilized for the conveyance and return of clothing for disinfection.

- (k)—An account of the action taken to prevent the outbreak and spread of infectious disease.

The action taken to prevent the outbreak and spread of infectious disease was similar to that of previous years.

- (l)—A statement of any action taken (a) for the control of acute primary pneumonia, acute influenzal pneumonia, malaria, dysentery and trench fever, under the Public Health (Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, &c.) Regulations (Scotland), 1919, and (b) with regard to "carriers" under the Public Health (Infectious Disease Carriers) Regulations (Scotland), 1921.

No action was called for under this head.

- (m)—A statement of the facilities available for the treatment of persons suffering from venereal diseases, with recommendations as to any further measures that might usefully be taken for dealing with these diseases in the Local Authority's area.

During the last four years facilities have been available for the free treatment of such persons at the City of Glasgow V.D. clinics, details of which can be obtained from the local practitioners or from me. I do not consider that any good purpose would be served by instituting any further measures—particularly any local clinic.

(n) — A statement as to the causes, origin, and distribution of diseases within the Burgh, and the extent to which the same have depended on or have been influenced by conditions capable of removal or mitigation.

Undernoted is a statement of the notifications of infectious disease as received month by month :—

MONTH.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Chickenpox.	Acute Lobar Pneumonia.	Influenzal Pneumonia.	Acute Anterior Polomyelitis.	Total.
January.. .....	2	2	3	5	2	..	..	14
February.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	1
March.....	1	3	1	19	2	...	..	26
April.....	1	1	...	17	1	...	..	20
May.....	...	...	1	4	3	...	1	9
June.....	...	1	...	1	2	...	..	4
July.....	2	3	...	3	2	...	..	10
August.....	1	1	3	1	2	...	..	8
September.....	2	2	3	1	1	...	..	9
October... ..	...	...	...	1	1	...	..	2
November.. ..	...	...	...	1	1	..	..	2
December.....	...	1	...	...	1	..	..	2
Total... ..	9	14	11	53	18	1	1	107

Table II. of the Statistics is a statement of the various notifications received during the year arranged according to their age groups. Neither scarlet fever nor diphtheria were at any time epidemic. Chickenpox accounted for about half of the total notifications. Leaving out of account the chickenpox notifications, we have a total of 54 notifications of infectious diseases against 56 last year, and 129 in 1921 (excluding Tuberculosis). In this connection it is noteworthy again that the rainfall for 1923 exceeded the mean annual rainfall by no less than 17·43 inches, and the number of rain-days for 1923 was 290. Wet weather is certainly not conducive to the spread of infectious diseases generally — "it's an ill wind that blows nobody good."

Likewise the weather throughout the year was responsible for keeping down the number of flies, and again I have to report that no children under 2 years of age died from diarrhoea or enteritis during the year. This disease is now regarded as being largely borne by flies to the food and feeding utensils when they are left exposed.

There occurred in June an epidemic of acute enteritis affecting adults and children which was traced to a common milk supply coming from outwith the Burgh. In co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health of the Bute District, investigations resulted in the stopping of a milk supply. This action resulted in the cessation of the epidemic, but not before about 65 or 70 cases came to my knowledge. The source of infection at the farm could not be defined. Suspicion fell on a sick cow in the byre and on certain weeds which the cows might have eaten.

There is no known condition influencing the origin of infectious disease within the Burgh which is capable of removal or mitigation.

Pathological specimens are examined at the Bacteriological Laboratory of the City of Glasgow.

**(o)—A statement of the measures adopted for the administrative control of tuberculosis, with recommendations as to any further measures that might usefully be put in force by the Local Authority** (In cases where this work is being undertaken by the County Council in terms of Section 41 (3) of the National Insurance Act, 1913, this information will be given by the County Medical Officer in his Report on the County).

This work is being undertaken by the Bute County Council. The new Tuberculosis Pavilion is nearing completion, and will be able to accommodate 7 or 8 patients. It will be brought into commission in the Spring of 1924. Throughout the year considerable use has been made of the reception wards at the R. S. Hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis patients.

**(p)—A statement of the arrangements made under the scheme of maternity service and child welfare.**

The arrangements detailed in my Report for 1919 are working satisfactorily.

The question of the admission to the Victoria Hospital of emergency midwifery cases requiring operative interference arose during the year. The hospital committee have agreed for a period to allow admission to such cases, provided that nursing is supplied.

- (q) —A report on the working of the Notification of Births Act, 1907. (This applies to areas where a scheme of maternity service and child welfare has not yet been carried into operation).

Not applicable to this area.

- (r) —An account of any action taken under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders, the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1903 (Sections 83-92), the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, the Milk (Special Designations) Order (Scotland), 1923, and the Condensed Milk Regulations 1923.

The Sanitary Inspector has reported very fully on his inspections of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops within the Burgh. He has also reported fully on his sampling of foodstuffs. No prosecutions were necessary for any deficiency in the samples of milk examined. No action was taken this year in connection with any known tuberculous milk. In none of the samples examined was the bacillus of tuberculosis found.

Under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1903, a systematic inspection of all cows within the Burgh was made by the Sanitary Inspector and Veterinary Surgeon, and the Sanitary Inspector has already reported his findings.

- (s) —An account of the work done under Section 43 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, for the inspection of meat at slaughter-houses, shops, and elsewhere; observations on unsound food, food inspection, and the sanitary condition of premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, indicating any important respects in which existing powers have been found inadequate for dealing with insanitary conditions in such places. A separate Return dealing with inspections at slaughter-houses under the Public Health (Meat Inspection) Regulations (Scotland), 1923 is being called for.

As noted previously, the Medical Officer of Health was appointed Meat Inspector, and the Superintendent of the Slaughter-house was appointed Detention Officer—to operate from 1st June, 1923. A separate Return, showing meat examined and condemned from 1st June to 31st Dec., 1923, has been furnished to the Scottish Board of Health. The total amount of meat condemned in 1923 was 6319 lbs.

The powers at present existing, would appear, in the experience of this area, to be sufficient for dealing with any insanitary conditions of premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored, or exposed for sale.

- (t)—A report on the work done by the Local Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, with observations on any special questions which have received or require attention.

The Sanitary Inspector is the Sampling Officer under these Acts.

- (u)—An account of any proceedings under the Rag Flock Act, 1911.

The Sanitary Inspector is the Sampling Officer under this Act, and reports no action taken during the year.

- (v)—A tabular statement, in such form as the Scottish Board of Health may from time to time direct, (1) of the cases of infectious disease notified in the Burgh, and (2) of the infantile mortality of the Burgh.

The tabular statements referred to form Tables II. and III. hereafter.

# TABLE I.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

YEAR 1923	POPULATION—Census 1921 (actual),	15,218
COUNTY—BUTE.	POPULATION—Census 1911,	9299
BURGH—ROTHESAY.	Do. Estimated, 1923,	9299

### NUMBERS.

Births	(Corrected for Transcripts)	161
Do. Illegitimate	(do. )	8
Marriages (Uncorrected)	..	52
Deaths (do. )	..	157
Do. Transferred Out	..	19
Do. do. In	..	15
Do. (Corrected) Both Sexes	..	153

### RATES PER 1000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION.

Birth-rate (Corrected for Transfers),	..	16.1
Do. (Uncorrected),	..	16.8
Marriage-rate (Uncorrected)	..	5.6
Death-rate—All Causes (do. )	..	16.9
Do. do. (Corrected for Transfers)	..	16.5
Do. do. (Corrected for Transfers and Adjusted for Age and Sex Distribution)	..	14.6
Do. —All Tuberculosis (Corrected for Transfers)	..	0.75
Do. —Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (do. )	..	0.65
Do. —Principal Epidemic Diseases (do. )	..	0.32
(Those Asterisked below.)		

Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of Children of under One Year per 1000 Births), corrected— .. 46

Illegitimate Rate (Illegitimate Births per 100 Total Births) corrected for Transcripts— .. 5.3

### CAUSES OF DEATH (corrected for Transfers).

ALL AGES

*Scarlet Fever,	..	1
*Whooping-cough,	..	1
Diphtheria, ..	..	1
Influenza, ..	..	1
Other Epidemic Discases,	..	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System,	..	6
Tuberculous Meningitis.	..	1
Malignant Tumours, ..	..	27
Meningitis (not Cer Spin. or Tuberc.),	..	1
Apoplexy, ..	..	13
Heart Disease.	..	24
Bronchitis, ..	..	8
Pneumonia (all forms),	..	13
Other Diseases of Respiratory System,	..	1
All Diseases of Liver (not Malignant),	..	1
Nephritis, Acute and Chronic,	..	4
Other Dis. and Acc. of Preg. and Parturition,	..	1
Diseases of Early Infancy and Malformations,	..	3
Other Violent Deaths,	..	4
Other Defined Diseases,	..	34
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	..	7
Total	..	153

On account of the inflation of the recent census figure for Rothesay by the inclusion of a large number of Summer visitors, the Registrar General decided to adjust the figure for Statistical purposes in a purely arbitrary manner—namely to use the census figure for 1911 as the arbitrary estimate for all years up to date of next census. Comparing this arbitrary estimate with the Registrar-General's estimate to middle of 1920, it represents an increase in population of 653.



TABLE II.

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE  
Notified &c., during the Year ending 31st December, 1923.

NUMBER OF CASES COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE M.O.H.										
DISEASE.	At all Ages.	At Age—Years.						Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.	
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.			65 and upwards.
<b>A.—NOTIFIED UNDER THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.</b>										
Typhoid or Enteric Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina.....	11	..	2	7	2	..	..	..	11	..
Diphtheria or Membranous Croup ..	9	..	4	3	1	1	..	..	6	3
Erysipelas.....	14	..	..	1	1	5	5	2	2	12
Puerperal Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total.....	34	..	6	11	4	6	5	2	19	15
<b>B.—NOTIFIED IN TERMS OF REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION 78 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897.</b>										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chickenpox.....	4	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	4
Acute Primary Pneumonia.....	18	1	..	1	2	6	5	3	..	18
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia .....	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	11	..	..	1	2	4	4	..	4	7
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	10	..	3	5	1	1	..	..	1	9
Total of A and B.....	78	1	9	21	9	18	15	5	24	54
<b>C.—DISEASES TO WHICH THE PROVISIONS OF THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTI- FICATION) ACT HAVE BEEN EXTENDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.</b>										
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.....	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Chickenpox.....	49	..	16	32	1	..	..	..	..	49











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